A Short Discourse,

To Prove the

USEFULNESS

OF

Vomiting

IN

FEVERS,

BY

PLAIN REASONING

And the Authority of the

Best Physicians,

ANCIENT and MODERN.

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A Short Dictionary

OF

MUSICAL TERMS

ILLUSTRATING

MODERN HARMONY

BY

HENRY ROMILLY FEDERLEIN

AND

ALBERT THOMAS EMMET

THE PREFACE

IT is but too remarkable, That Phyſick as it hath advanced in Age, ſo it hath decayed in Reputation. Phyſicians, who among the Learned Grecians were held in the higheſt Eſteem, are now rather imployed out of Cuſtom and Faſhion, as neceſſary Implements of Death-bed Sickneſs and Funeral Charges, than for any great Performance expected from them, either by the Patients themſelves, or their Relations. And the Truth is, at the rate a great many Practiſe, we cannot ſay the World is altogether in the wrong: An affected ſtarch't Gravity with a ſawcy Aſſurance, and a paraſitical Cunning to get into the Acquaintance and good Opinion of People, is almoſt all that does intitle ſome Men to their Employment. It is to ſuch moſtly we are obliged to, for the Diſcredit the Practice of Medicine is fallen under of late, who contenting themſelves with ſtudying the mean and crafty Politicks of the Trade, and having neglected every thing elſe to qualify them for it, do by their Puny Feats make a great many judge it to be more the fault of the Art than of the Practiſers. And indeed it is no wonder that the World is more impoſed upon by the Pretenders to this Science than to any other whatſoever, ſo far it is out of the ordinary Road of theſe who do not make it their Study: When a Lawyer appears at the Bar, or a Miniſter in the Pulpit, every Body that has but little more than common Senſe may be almoſt a Judge of either the one or the others Performance,

but the Generality of the World does not so much as pretend to understand the first Elements of Physick, and consequently can be but a very ill Judge of the Sufficiency of those who profess it. What Applauses have we seen a Formal Pretender, when he has spruc'd himself up with a little forc'd Rhetorick draw from his listening Admirers, who commonly have not Line enough to Fathom him; that he is an Ingenious Man, is a Character they cannot in justice deny him, and make no question but he is as good at Curing a Disease, as he is at telling a Stale Jest, or an Antiquated Story; but whenever they have occasion to use this Talking Machine, and find how ill suited his Dwarfish Performances are to his Gigantick Wit, then presently they throw Dirt on the whole Faculty, & proclaim Physick to be nothing else but Conjectural ill grounded Notions wrapt up in difficult and hard Terms.

I am not ignorant how much Physicians have lessened their Esteem by the Indecent Scuffles amongst themselves, and that by Inveighing one against another, they rather fasten an Imputation on the whole Profession, than there where they design it; however this has been mostly the fault of those who know, that it is much easier to establish themselves by Decrying what another Man does, than to acquit themselves as they ought to do, when their own Skill is required. It was such an Inhumane and Malicious Treatment I met with from one of my own Employment, that gave occasion to this Discourse, which otherwise may be of use to such as may hazard their Lives by their Prepossession in the Affair discoursed of. The Story in short is, That I was very lately called to a Gentleman of Consequence and Merit, who had been in

a Fever several days before; from the beginning it had been attended with such Symptoms, as were evident Signs of Repletion, his Stomach being overcharged with Choler and other Humors, which of it's own accord it threw up frequently, with a great Bitterness in his Mouth, and other undoubted Evidences of Redounding Gall: Blooding and Clistering with Milk and Sugar had been the Achillean Cures his ordinary Physician had plyed him with before I came; When first I saw him; I found him labouring under the greatest Oppression imaginable, his Pulse low and oppressed, his Breathing uneasie, and his Spirits overwhelmed with the continuing Disorder of his Stomach which he had from the beginning; in a word, he was in such a Case, that I could not venture to give him that which I was sure ought to have been done at first, and which as yet was the only thing could be done to purpose, until I had procured a Remission by Injecting a Sharp Clister, which had the desired Effect, so that next day I ordered a Vomit of an Ounce of Emetick Wine, and three Drachms of the Syrup of Buck-thorn: This by the by, was not only aggravated with the Frightful Name of an Antimonial Vomit, but also called a Triple Dose, which I leave to be judged of by those, who have the Courage to give more than a Single Drop or two of the Spirit of Harts-Horn at a time. The Evacuation of Gall that followed the taking of the Vomit, both upwards and downwards, was so Surprizing, that in all Probability imaginable, it must have been of Fatal Consequence, if it had been left to the Course of the Fever, to have been carried off by a Crise. After that the Fever went on, but with-

without any thing near that Oppreſſion I at firſt found him under, ſo that both that Gentleman, whom I called to my Aſſiſtance, and whoſe Judgment and Knowledge are equal to his Years and Experience, and my ſelf gave good Hopes of his Recovery; but his Phyſician, who, it ſeems, is equally good at the Cure and the Prognoſtick, not only told, that he was gone paſt Recovery, but that I had Killed him, and that the giving of Vomits in Fevers, was an Innovation in the Practice of Medicine, never before heard of. So for my own Vindication I have ſhown, that both by plain Reaſon, and the General Rules and Maxims of Phyſick, that Vomiting is not only to be done in moſt of our Fevers, but alſo, that it is ſo far from being a Novelty to any, to whom the whole Art is not ſuch, that we have it Confirmed by the Authority of the beſt Phyſicians, both Ancient and Modern. But nothing can be Surprizing from the Impudent Ignorance of that Spark after his Elaborat Work, I mean Apollo the Mathematician, as one merrily called it, where he attacks as ignorantly as dully the Uſeful, Ingenious, and Demonſtrative Diſcoveries of a moſt Learned Phyſician, who had given him no occaſion for it, that I know, and where he overturns whole Mathematical Demonſtrations by ſuch Witty Turns, as calling an Effatum an Effartum, &c. I ſhall ſay no more, but only tell him, that if he find his Choler moved, Et ſi

Turgeſcit vitrea bilis,

he'd even beſt take one of his own Topping Preſcriptions, an eaſie Parable Medicine made up of Domeſtick and Safe Ingredients, no Edge-Tools, an Injection of Milk and Sugar to bring it downwards.

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Short Diſcourſe, &c.

IT is beyond my Deſign to Diſcourſe of the ſeveral Cauſes and Natures of *Fevers*, or of their ſeveral Names and Diviſions. I confine my ſelf only to ſpeak of thoſe Continued *Fevers*, which moſt uſualy reign amongſt us, and of the Uſe, or rather Neceſſity of giving *Vomits* in ſuch: And I think I need ſcarcely be put to prove a Matter of Fact ſo well known, to witt, That moſt of our *Fevers*, from the very firſt Invaſion of them, are attended with a Squeamiſhneſs, Vomiting of Gall, bitterneſs of the Mouth, and ſuch other evident ſigns of overflowing Choler in the Cavity of the Stomach and Inteſtines. I am not now to enquire what are the Antecedent Cauſes of producing this quantity of Bile in the Body, neither ſhall I Diſpute, whether it be Generated immediatly in the Stomach by a depraved Digeſtion, or whether it is ſeparated from the Blood by the Liver, and poured into the Stomach by the paſſage of the Gall, that is inſerted near the lower end of it; But I ſuppoſe it to be actually there now, where it cannot ſtay long, without undergoing a great Alteration by it's Stagnating in the Stomach, and conſequently not

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ſo fit to be mixed again with the Blood as it was before it was ſeparated from it. Now the Queſtion is, Whether we ſhall Aſſiſt or Stimulat Nature, to Diſlodge ſo dangerous a Gueſt, or ſhall we ſuffer it to mix with the Chyle in the Stomach and Guts, and be carried again to the Blood, from which it muſt be ſeparated again, otherwiſe the Patient Dies.

I think after ſtating the Queſtion, I need make no anſwer, only I would adviſe theſe Gentlemen who Practiſe with that Caution they pretend to, not to think ſo lightly of neglecting theſe neceſſary Evacuations in the beginning, the doing of which muſt at beſt prolong the Diſeaſe; and with all, I would have them take ſome better notice whether Bleeding ought to precede them or not, This may be Diſcuſt by a very plain Calculation.

I ſuppoſe the Fever beginning, and the quantity of Gall and other Humors actually fluctuating in the Stomach; which cannot be carried off by any Medicine, but part of it will mix with the Blood. Now, Suppoſing the Humours in the Stomach to be to the whole Maſs of Blood, as one to Twenty; if you let a Twentieth part of the Blood, then it is but as one to Nineteen; that is, the proportion of the Blood is diminiſhed in reſpect of that Matter, which gives Fewel to the Fever, and conſequently not ſo able to Digeſt or throw it off by a Criſe. On the contrary, if we evacuat (for Example) one half of the Humours before they mix with

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the Blood, they are but as one to Fourty; which muſt make a vaſt difference in the event of the Cure. This Calculation is ſo plain, that I ſhall not quot the Fifth Book of *Euclide* to prove it, and by it I would have theſe wary Gentlemen take notice, that ſeeing they do little more than look on and ſee fair Play between the Patient and the Diſeaſe, that at leaſt they would not caſt the Ballance on the laſt's Part, and leave the Patient to manage his Strength the beſt way he can, againſt both Diſeaſe and Phyſician. I do not pretend by this, but there may be ſome Caſes that require Bleeding before any thing elſe; but to do it of Courſe without any urgent Indication, at the Rate as is commonly practiſed, muſt certainly be of fatal Conſequence to a great many.

But now the Fever is gone on for ſeveral dayes before a Phyſician be called. Well ſays *Maſter Dolittle*, Here can be no place for evacuation, becauſe the Courſe of the Diſeaſe has waſted the Strength and Spirits, and the Patient ſhall never be able to endure it; & further, it will put the Blood into a great Commotion, and Increaſe the Fever.

I do indeed Confeſs the Patient had run a great deal leſs hazard if theſe Evacuations had been made in the beginning; But yet as weare ſtill to make beſt of an ill Bargain; and if the Patient be not reduced to extream weakneſs, I ſay it is yet to be done. As for waſting the Strength and Spirits, it is evident, that theſe Humours mixing with the Blood, to be at laſt

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ſubdued by a tedious Criſe, muſt infallibly at the long run, exhauſt and weaken them a great deal more than the ſhort Operation of a Vomit; which doth but lend a hand to Nature; and I appeal to any man who ever took an ordinary Vomit, if he has not found himſelf more weakened, and his Strength more exhauſted by a few Hours of toſſing and anxiery from a diſordered Stomach, than from the effect of the Vomitive Potion. As for the other Objection of increaſing the Fever, every body knows, that hath the leaſt ſtudied the Operation of Medicaments, that a Vomit works only in *primis viis*, the ſuddenneſs of its effect too, ſhows that it has no time to mix with the Blood, to put it into any great Commotion. That the heaving of the Breaſt, and the Extraordinary motion of the Muſcles of the lower Belly, and *Diaphragm* will quicken the Pulſe, and make the Blood move faſter during its working, is without all Queſtion, but even that will Contribute more to the Cominution and digeſtion of the Feveriſh Matter in the Blood, than do any harm to the Patient, ſeeing that ceaſeth ſo ſoon as the Vomit hath done Operating.

To call this an innovation in the practice of Medicine, is to ſpeak againſt the current of the Phyſicians of all Ages, as well as againſt the General Maxims of Phyſick. It is true the Ancients knew no other Vomits, but what were of the Vegetable kind; and theſe were either too weak, ſuch as *the Decoction of Hyſop*,

Hyſop, Oyle and Water, common Oxymel, &c. and conſequently had either little or no effect, or theſe which had a deleterious and poiſoning Quality, and therefore over violent and unſafe, which makes them ſpeak moſtly of Purgatives. But even theſe they uſed, notwithſtanding of the vaſt Commotion they make in the whole Juices of the Body, beyond Vomitive and Laxative Medicins, ſuch was the force of the Indication. It were endleſs to give all the Quotations which can be adduced to prove this, and would far exceed the bounds I laid down to my ſelf.

I ſhall begin with *Hippocrates*, who *Aph.* 21. *Sect.* 1. ſays, *Such Humours as are to be carryed off, let it be done that way that Nature affects moſt; if it be a convenient way.* Now, I judge no Phyſician ever pretended that Redundant Choler in the Stomach ſhould not be carried off, neither that the way of Vomiting is not *lege natura commoda;* ſo *Heurnius* tranſlates it. In the 10 *Aph. Sect.* 4. he ſays, *In very acute diſeaſes Purging is to be uſed if the Humour be turgid, for it is dangerous to delay.* Now, what way we are to evacuat the firſt cited Aphoriſm ſhows, and this ſhows we are to do it even in the moſt acute Diſeaſes.

Celſus, Cap. 13. *de Vomitu,* ſays, *Vomiting as in perfect Health it is often neceſſary for ſuch as are Cholerick, ſo it is alſo in thoſe Diſeaſes which are occaſioned by Choler,* only he adds, *That in Fevers and Acute Diſeaſes, we need not uſe the harſher Medicaments, ſuch as White* Hellebor, which was only

the only effectual Vomitive he knew, & which they were almoſt always in a dread to give, and by it's Violence now quite out of Uſe. It is not poſſible to Quote the Innumerable Paſſages from *Galen*, and the other *Principes Medici* to prove my Aſſertion, beſides, that what they write concerning Fevers, cannot ſo exactly jump with the Caſe in hand, it being certain, that moſt of their Fevers were either of the *Inflammatory* or the *Peſtilential* kinds, and that the Difference of the Clymats, and of our Way of Living from theirs, muſt of neceſſity alter the Type of the Diſeaſes very much. So I ſhall not longer inſiſt on their Authority, but now come to the Moderns, of whom I ſhall only take the moſt Famous, and whoſe Practice has moſt obtained.

I ſhall begin with the great *Fernelius*, *Cap.* XI. *de Curat. Febr. When* (ſays he) *there happens an Evacuation of Bile of it's own accord, the Fever may end without any Medicine, but when that is either none at all, or too little Medicaments are to be given, leſt the Fever, by being neglected, change it's Species, and become worſe, and of longer Continuance.* And a little afterwards he adds, *for ſeeing the Stomach and Inteſtines,* (which is what he means by the *Prima Corporis Regio*) *in which the Noxious Humor fluctuats, are moſt unclean, ſome of it is to be timeouſly evacuated in the beginning, eſpecially if there be Bitterneſs in the Mouth, Oppreſſion of the Heart, or Squeamiſhneſs, or want of Appetit,* &c. And, *Cap.* V. Which treats of theſe things which are to be obſerved in the Methodical

dical Cure of Fevers, he ſays, *Not only therefore in very Acute Diſeaſes, whoſe Matter is Turgid (after* Hippocrates's *Way, to whom only Violent Medicines were known) but alſo in all Acute Diſeaſes, Purging is proper in the beginning.* And a little after, *If in the firſt days of the Fever the Evacuation be omitted, whatever time you are ſent for, you ſhall order Remedies as if the Diſeaſe were beginning.* When there is an Inclination to Vomit, what he gives is *Oxymel* or *Hydreleum*, the Uſe of Antimonial Vomits not being known in his time, or if they were, being firſt introduced by raſh ignorant Quacks, they were cryed down by the Dogmatical Phyſicians for a while, until their ſafe and eaſie Operation brought them in, in ſpite of Humor and Prepoſſeſſion.

Platerus who lived about fifty years after him, and whom *Sylvius*, who was not over prodigal of good Names to any Man, calls *Magnus Platerus*, ſays in his Treatiſe *de Febribus*, Pag. m. 77. "Vomiting to theſe who are ac-
"cuſtomed, and Nature puſhing on to it, is
"allowed, and if in a continued Fever, the
"Gall doth work upon the Stomach, and be
"troubleſome, it will extremely help. And afterwards, *Pag.* 87. "If there be crude Humors
"in the Stomach, and the Gall be carried in-
"to it, Nature is to be helped to throw out
"that by Vomiting which does moleſt it. I ſhall Quote no more of the Moderns of that Age, theſe two being look't on by all to be the moſt Learned, and beſt Practitioners amongſt them.

I come now to the later Physicians, and shall omit the Crowd of *German* Authors, whom I take to be all on my side, *Ludovicus* in that excellent Book he calls *Pharmacia Moderno Seculo Applicanda*, I remember somewhere says, "That "he's sure, wherever one was killed by giving "a Vomit or Opium, a hundred have died "for want of them. *Etmullerus de Febr.* asserts, "That Vomiting is proper in all Fevers, even "in these which are Malignant. And withal tells us, "He had often observed, that to "whomsoever he gave a Vomit in the begin-"ning of Malignant Fevers, that whether the "Event was good or bad, through the whole "Course of the Disease they lay quiet and ea-"sy. He does also prefer the Antimonial Vomits to all other, because of it's Sulphur which resists Malignity. It were tedious to give you many more Quotations, so I shall end with the Testimonies of the three greatest Physicians of this Age, that is *Willis*, *Sylvius*, and *Sydenham*.

Willis in his Treatise of Fevers not only approves of Vomiting in continued Fevers, but shows by some Observations that it was his common Practice, For Example, the first he gives is, "Of a Noble Matron of Fifty years "of Age, of a slender habit of Body, a low Sta-"ture, who by shifting her Cloaths in the "Month of *June*, was ill towards Night, after "that she was taken with a Squeamishness and "oppression of her Stomach, felt flying pains "without any excessive heat. The Second

"and

" and Third day ſhe was much the ſame, on
" the Fourth day after ſhe had taken a Vomit,
" which was an Ounce of Emetick Wine, ſhe
" Four times vomited up yellow Gall, and
" Purged thrice: And ſo he gives an account of the Progreſs of the Fever afterwards, too tedious to inſert: However, ſhe Recovered. He has ſeveral others to the ſame purpoſe, which may be ſeen in his Works.

Sylvius Prax. Med. lib. 1. *Cap.* XXXI. after, he tells that the Primary Cauſe of theſe continued Fevers is the Bile which is faulty either by its Acrimony, or inflammability, Sums up the Method of curing them all in the laſt Paragraph of the Chapter, thus. " Blooding in-
" deed is then chiefly conducible, when there
" is an extraordinary heat, the provok-
" ing of Sweat, when there are Signs of
" a troubleſom acidity, and laſtly purging by
" Stool and Vomiting when the Gall works
" up and is too Plentiful. Now, what ſort of Vomit he is for, may be ſeen the next Chapter but one, in which he treats of Malignant Fevers, where he ſays, " that in thoſe when
" Vomiting is neceſſary, he prefers *Antimonial*
" Vomits to all others, becauſe of their Admir-
" able Sulphur, which doth wonderfully mi-
" tigate every thing that is Acrimonious. *But* he tells Poſitively, *Cap* XXIII. " I prefer, *ſayes*
" *he*, Antimonial Vomits to all other, both
" becauſe they promiſcuouſly evacuat all Hu-
" mours, and alſo becauſe they are moſt
" Friendly to Human Nature; reducing by a

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" peculiar way, all the juices in the Body to " a Laudable State; which Power I Queſtion, " is to be found in other things, but I know " it to be in Antimony, whatever either " Learned or Ignorant Men may Prate to the " Contrary.

I ſhall Conclude with the Opinion of the Judicious and Ingenuous Dr. *Sydenham*, who in the Fourth Chapter of his Works, treating of ſuch continued Fevers, as are every whit the ſame we commonly have amongſt us, ſays, " After Blooding (if it ſhould be found " neceſſary after the forementioned Cautions) " I carefully enquire whether Vomiting or a- " ny Inclination to it, did trouble the Pati- " ent towards the beginning of the Fever. If " that happened, I certainly order a Vomitive " Medicine, except either tender Age, or ſome " extraordinary weakneſs of the Patient do " perſwade me to abſtain from it. And indeed " the giving a Vomit where ſuch an Inclina- " tion to Vomiting has preceeded, is ſo neceſ- " ſary, that unleſs that Humour be expelled, " it will turn to a Sink of Evils, which ſhall " torture the Phyſician during the whole " Courſe of his Medicating, and throw the " Patient into no ſmall danger. The moſt " uſual and Chief is a Diarrhea or Flux, which " for the moſt part follows in the Declination " of the Fever as often as Vomiting, when " there was an Indication for it, was neglect- " ed, *&c.* Now, *ſayes he*, The Danger of " that Diarrhea lies here, that when the Pati-

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" ent is sufficiently weakned by his Disease, he " is by it further Enervated, and besides, (which " is yet of greater Moment) in the Declining " of the Fever, at which time the Blood ought " to Contract it self, and Exert it's Power to " throw off by Despumation the Morbifick " Matter, is now entirely hindred by that " Evacuation.

" Now lest you should doubt that this Hu- " mor that Nestles in the Stomach, except it " be carried off by Vomiting, will sometime " thereafter make this Tragedy; if you'll en- " quire, you shall almost always find, that if " a Flux do accompany the Fever, that the " Patient had in the beginning of the Disease " been Squeamish, and that no Vomit had " been given him. And further you shall find, " that altho' that Inclination to Vomiting be " over, yet nevertheless, the Diarrhea shall " cease so soon as you give the Vomit, provided " the Strength of the Patient be able to endure " it: I have also frequently observed, that " when the Diarrhea once began, that adstrin- " gent Medicines, either taken inwardly, or " outwardly applyed, did little or nothing " contribute to the stopping of it. Then he tells the common Vomitive Potion he uses in such Cases, which is six Drachms of Emetick Wine, with Oxymel of Squills and Syrup of Scabions. Afterwards he goes on.

" If any Man ask me, What time of the Fe- " ver I would have a Vomit given. I Answer,

" If I could have my Wish, I would do it in " the very beginning; for by that I shall pre- " serve my Patient from these dreadful Symp- " toms, which are occasioned by that Heap " of Humors in the Stomach, and Neighbour- " ing Places; and even perhaps crush the Di- " sease in the Bud, which otherwise would " grow to the danger of the Patient, being nou- " rished by these Humors, &c.

" But, (*says he, the next Paragraph*) If, as it " often happens, by our being too late sent " for, we cannot Consult the Safety of our " Patients towards the beginning of the Fe- " ver; Nevertheless I am certainly of Opini- " on, that it ought to be done whatever " time of the Disease it be, provided the " Strength be not so far wasted, that it cannot " endure the Force of a Vomit. And indeed " for my own part, I have made no Scruple " to give a Vomit on the twelfth day of the " Fever, even when the Patient had left off to " be Squeamish, and not without Success: *And afterwards,* " Neither would I in the least doubt " to do it later, except the Consideration of the " exhausted Strength of the Patient should stop " me.

These Quotations which I have Translated, do faithfully speak the Sense and meaning of the Authors I took them from; and I think they are so decisive, that there is not any need for more. I shall only add, that as Vomiting in Fevers has been the way of the best Physi-

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cians of all Ages; ſo it is at this time all Europe over, the Practice of ſuch who underſtand any thing of their Buſineſs, and is daily Confirmed (not to mention the good event of that Gentleman's Fever, which gave occaſion to this Diſcourſe) by the recovery of theſe who are ſo treated,

Neither ſhall the Reader take this on my bare aſſertion; for that it is at this time the practice of the *French* Phyſicians, who had uſed to be the greateſt oppoſers of Antimonial Medicines, they ſhall have the word of a very Honeſt man for it; I mean *Doctor Tournefort.* whoſe admirable Genie and Learning, procured him the Profeſſion of *Botany* in the King's Garden at *Paris*, and made him worthy to be a Member of that Illuſtrious Society, *The Royal Academy of Sciences.* He in a late Book intituled, *Hiſtoire des plantes qui naiſſent aux environs de Paris.* In the Preface, ſpeaking of the great uſe of Vomits, and of their way of Operating, adds, That France *is Obliged to the Diligence of it's Skilful Phyſicians, for it's being free from the Plague in theſe latter Times, which muſt have Diſpeopled that Kingdom, if they had kept to their Blooding, Ptiſans, and Diaphoreticks, even with much ado,* ſayes he, *it yielded to* Antimony, Helebor, Elaterium *and* Coloquint.

I ſhall end with this, that I am ſorry a great many People ſhould have ſo raſhly paſt their Judgement, in an Affair, which it ſeems, they underſtood ſo little, eſpecially when they had

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no better ground for it than the false insinuations and Malicious whisperings of one who is very far from being a Judge in these Matters himself, or the open talking of some men who are so mean as to think it worth the while to be his Emissaries.

FINIS.